Statement by Ms. Namgya Khampa at the First Regular Session 2010 of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA on January 20, 2010

Mr. President,

We thank Executive Director, Dr. Thoraya Obaid, for her detailed and informative statement. As an Executive Board member, my delegation assures you and the new Bureau members of our full cooperation in carrying forward the important mandate and agenda of the UNFPA during this year.

Mr. President,
Over the past 12 years, India has put in place a complex framework of policy and programme responses for attaining the goals set out in the ICPD Programme of Action. This has flowed from the approach of integrating population issues into our national development strategies. Notable initiatives include the flagship National Rural Health Mission launched in 2005 and adoption of the National Population Policy in 2000 which represented a paradigm shift from emphasis on population control and demography to sustainable development and reproductive and child health approach.

We are glad to share with you that the National Rural Health Mission is expected to achieve the goals set by the Millennium Development Goals.

Moving forward, as we approach the deadline of 2015, India reaffirms its commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action and considers it as crucial in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

We appreciate UNFPA’s work and advocacy in this direction, particularly in partnering programme countries to provide policy and technical assistance for development interventions, aligned with national priorities and based on national ownership.

While acknowledging UNFPA efforts to increase programme expenditure and achieve efficiency gains, we urge the Agency to sustain and enhance the focus on priority areas in the strategic plan, particularly population and development, reproductive health and rights, and gender equality.

India also encourages UNFPA to capitalize on the rich repository of successful experiences that already exist in many developing countries to further strengthen its efforts at facilitating the transfer and sharing of knowledge and best practices between countries of the South.
As we are well aware, effective implementation of the strategic plan requires, inter alia, access to greater funding, especially regular resources, increased resource allocation for core programming activities, further strengthening of a results-based management framework, and greater transparency and accountability.

We expect UNFPA to provide us with regular and detailed information on steps taken to realize these objectives. In this context, we also look forward to the joint information note to be presented during this session on the roadmap to an integrated budget in 2014.

Mr. President,

Allow me to conclude with a brief word of appreciation for the work being undertaken by UNFPA in India. The contribution of UNFPA as reflected in its country programme has grown from US $ 46.40 Million under the Country Plan-1(1974-79) to US $ 65 Million under Country Plan-7 (2008-2012).

We are presently in the third year of implementation of UNFPA’s 7th Country Plan. It aims to support India’s 11th Five-year plan that gives special attention to the health of marginalized groups like adolescent girls, women of all ages, children below the age of three, older persons, disabled, and tribal groups. The Plan views gender as the cross-cutting theme across all schemes. It will also ensure a large share of allocation for health programmes in critical areas such as HIV/AIDS.

India values UNFPA’s consistent support to our national programmes, particularly in terms of technical support and introduction to global best practices.

Thank you, Mr. President.